



Inter-Parliamentary Union Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: VIET NAM

(PHASE 2)



Created 18/09/2006

Project details

Title:	Development of the Centre for Information, Library and Research Services
Status:	Closed
Duration:	2 Years (1994-1996)
Budget:	CHF 157,688.70 (US\$ 132,830.65)
Donor partner:	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

Background

After fielding a needs-assessment mission in 1991, the IPU developed a project and provided assistance in various ways to the National Assembly's Centre for Information, Library and Research Services (Phase 1).

Upon the successful conclusion of this phase, a report was submitted to SIDA in February 1994, together with a project proposal for further assistance. In August 1994, SIDA agreed to provide funding for this second phase.

Areas of activity

The project sought to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to provide support to the National Assembly in its legislative, oversight and representative functions. In order to enhance the Centre's efficiency, the project provided for:

- The establishment of a core reference collection for the library.
- English-language training for members of staff.
- The purchase of computer equipment for cataloguing and printing of books
- The acquisition of software and hardware for database development and the initial start-up of an electronic communication network (ECN).
- The acquisition of video and basic office equipment.
- Training of staff in database development and in the establishment and functioning of an ECN.

Target beneficiaries

Since the project was mainly a continuation and expansion of the above-mentioned first project, its beneficiaries were virtually the same:

Mainly the staff who received training and equipment but also the members of the National Assembly, whose work was facilitated, enabling them to fulfil their constitutional function regarding legislation and oversight of the government.



Plenary Hall of the National Assembly

Results

By March 1996, a project implementation report was presented to SIDA. The report stated that, with a single exception, all the activities foreseen had been implemented. The different objectives had been treated as follows:

- Creation of a basic reference collection, including some 125 titles.
- Equipment and installation of basic equipment for the library, including two PCs and printers, a TV set and VCR, a photocopier and a fax machine.
- Better trained staff, through a three-week course in the Swedish Parliament on the establishment and functioning of electronic communication networks and databases, and on-the-job training conducted by two Swedish experts.
- Two officials received English-language training for nine months in Australia.

The component of the project concerning the acquisition of the computer equipment necessary for a local area network (LAN) was deferred to the next Phase (Phase 3) of the project aimed at providing assistance to the National Assembly.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mr. Jan Zetterdahl, deputy head of the Computer Department at the Swedish Parliament.
- Mr. Bengt Thufvesson, former head of the Document Management Department at the Swedish Parliament.

Parliaments supporting the project were:

- Parliament of Sweden